Rec^d July 7th
Ans^d Aug 1

State Agricultural College,
Lansing. Michigan June 29/60.

My Dear Doct. Engelmann

Some time ago you commenced a letter to me by "what will you think of me" — now I ask what will you think of me? I hope that you have somehow heard of my removal here & have placed my neglect to the account of a change of residence. To make a short story — I had all sorts of nice promises & thought I should have a place with fair pay & a good share of time — I have neither pay nor time — My specimens for which I was promised cases &c are all in their boxes & I was never in a worse position as regards time & conveniences than now — I recd your letters — the Cactus mss. & the parcel of grasses from your brother — I have recently had a hunt among my boxes for them (the grasses) & find that they are not numerous — When do you want them — Upon hurriedly going

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

over them I think that they are worthy well known things - I have not been able to work an hour on my catalogue since I came here. I had reached about half way through Compositae - It looks as if I could not go on with it until our winter vacation. Are matters at your Bot. Garden any better since the law-suit? Is there any chance for me there or any where else in St Louis? I must get out of this some how. Have been here four months without a dollar of pay & no money in the treasury to pay with. I get very gloomy some times I can assure you - I beg you excuse the long silence - I must hurry to save the mail -

Very truly yours

George Thurber

Rec^d Nov 20th

I. exaltata.
Zygomen Opl

New York. Nov 16th 1860.

Dear Doctr Engelmann

Your letter of the 5th was forwarded from Lansing. There is a vacation at the Agl College for the winter & I returned here on the 3d. Have just today got my books & traps arranged & the first thing that I have done is to look at your Grass, no 21 - which is

Sporobolus airoides, Herb. Torr.
Agrostis airoides, Torr. in Ann. Lyc. N.Y. 1. p. 151.
Torr. in Marcy's Rep. p. 300.

It is Wright's 1975 & 1977.

Torrey in Marcy remarks that in Marcy's specimens "the axils of the panicle are nearly glabrous." So they are in the original. I was quite unable to do anything at grasses or any other work except to look after my classes & large garden in Michigan.

I did not botanize as much as I should have done had I remained in N. Y.

Found a good locality for Hippuris & ~~Scirp~~ Eleocharis quadrangulata. I suppose that I shall return there if I cannot do very much better. I told them that if they did not pay I would leave at once. They are only two months in arrears & hope to be all right another year. I am lecturing here on Bot & Mat. Med. at the College of Pharmacy. Shall have considerable time to give to the catalogue which I must try to finish this winter. Will give you a list of your brothers grasses very soon.

Have seen Torrey but once. I have been too unsettled until now to do any visiting. Any chance for duplicates in your brothers Coll.? Will your acct of them be out soon? We have rec'd a fine lot of bulbs from a Californian correspondent which a florist has in keeping. Among others the Californian White Lily (Washingtonianum of course!) described by Kellogg, which blooms pure white & then goes & turns crimson or purple - 2 sp of Calochortus - a new Chloragalum - Alliums, Seubertia, & Liliorhiza (what a name!) a new Genus of Kellogg.

My address is N. Y. Medical College - Glad to hear from you again

& am as ever yours

George Thurber

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Recd Jan 30th
Ans March 22

New York Jany 23d 1861.

My Dear Doctor Engelmann.

These notes on your grasses have been made out for some time, but I delayed sending them as I wished to consult Torrey's Herbarium about some of the Festucea things which are very troublesome. I have done the best that I could with them — I can't agree to your species of Brizopyrum unless you will let me make 20 others — I hope that you will have some pickings from the collection — My lectures keep me very busy — yet I work gradually on the catalogue, such a job! The Michigan folks don't pay up & I can't say what I shall do.

In haste very truly
George Thurber

Shall I return the specimens of your brothers coll — or have you plenty?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Recd- Febr 23d-
Ans March 22d

New York. Feb. 18th 1861.

Dear Doct. Engelmann.

As the time is approaching when I shall go West, if I return at all I thought it would be well to return the grasses which you placed in my hands. I have devoted all the available time for the last two weeks in arranging and numbering them. I found that it would take me more time than I could possibly spare to work out the S. American & Eastern Grasses & I had to let those go. Some genera, as Poa, Elymus &c. are very difficult & I have done the best that I could with them. I think at any rate you will find that I have saved you some color. When I went over the Mexican Boundary grasses I sent a set to Munro for his revision & another to Dr Bolle in Berlin to be compared with Kths. & I think that they will be found as well settled as it is possible for us on this side of the water. I made a list of your species in order that when I get hold of my duplicates I may fill vacancies. Thinking you might find a copy of it convenient I had my friend Frank Pollard make one for you. With regard to duplicates from your collection, I have taken where they would help my own, endeavoring to do as I would be done by. On going over the genus Vitis again I am convinced that what I called, in the enumeration of your brothers grapes, V. cinerea β Engelmanii,

is only a very long awned var.
of T. repens. I find that
I carelessly spelled the label
of Festuca duriuscula - drurius-
please correct if I made a like
mistake in the list.
Hoping that the box will come
to you in good order I am
Very truly
George Thurber

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 cm copyright reserved MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Recd Jan 5th 1848
Ans March 28.

Thurber

Providence R.I. Dec 23d 1847

Doct Engleman

Dear Sir -

My friend Doct Mead of Augusta Ill- writes me that last spring he sent a package of plants intended for me to your care. in order that you might forward it with your parcels to Doct. Gray= As I am quite desirous of receiving them this winter I take the liberty of writing to request you- should you not be sending to Doct Gray soon - to take the trouble to send them to New Orleans to the care of my friend David C. Kingsley and notify him how they are sent that he may look out for them - If there is a probability of your sending East this winter I would not have you go to the trouble however — I suppose that to an experienced botanist a New England collector can offer but little new - unleſs it be to furnish him supplies for his foreign correspondents = If you are desirous of procuring any of our plants in exchange for those of the south and west I should be glad to furnish them - we have many good things among Cyperaceae &c — Should you desire it I will send you the catalogues published

Thurber

by our society — Should you not be desirous of exchanging you may perhaps have some friend who would be glad to obtain our northern & eastern plants

Hoping you will excuse the liberty which I have taken in addressing you

I remain
Most respectfully
Yours George Thurber

Doct Geo. Engelmann
St Louis Mo—

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
Missouri Botanical Garden

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Recd Aug 20
Ans Aug 25

Providence Aug 15th 1853.

Dr Engelmann

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 4th was duly forwarded by Dr Gray - I was intending to write you upon the subject of the Cereus giganteus. having materials sufficient to complete the history of that plant

If you wish to prepare an article for Silliman the materials are at your disposal - I have the dried flower - the fruit preserved in alcohol - drawings of fruiting summit - thorns &c - wood - & seeds enclosed in pulp — If the article you are preparing is to come out as the labors of Wright Parry &c - gentlemen for whom I entertain respect & esteem I will most heartily contribute any thing I have - but if it is to appear under the auspices of Col J D Graham or Maj Emory I must decline doing so - for reasons which it would take too long to explain & which could hardly interest you -

I undertook to bring home C. giganteus & other cactaceae of that region but I lost them all by the breaking down of a wagon - I have flowers & drawing of another large Cereus - also fl. of an Opuntia resembling O. arborescens & some other things -

I pray that you will not construe what I have said above into any-thing like disrespect for yourself or the gentlemen who collected under Graham & Emory - & wish to assure you that anything I can do for you will be done with pleasure

Let me hear from you how your work is to be published. Also let me know how materials can reach you — What is the best mode of vegetating seeds of Cacti? —

- I remain my dear Sir
with great respect
Truly yours
George Thurber

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
Missouri Botanical Garden

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Recd Octob 17th
Ans Nov 2

Providence Oct 10th 1853

My dear Sir

I really owe you an apology for not writing you before – I delayed sending the C. Giganteus matters as I hoped for the arrival of packages of plants shipped from Texas last June – I since have learned that the vessel containing them run ashore somewhere in the Gulf of Mexico & was condemned to be sold but that the cargo would be shipped to its destination – since then I have heard nothing of it & fear that the bulk of my plants together with valuable books &c are lost – I fortunately sent some plants &c. by another conveyance which include the C. gig – & will try to get time to forward the materials in a day or two – I merely write now that you may not suppose that I treated your proposal with indifference or neglect –

With respect I remain
Very truly yours
George Thurber

Dr G. Engelmann
St Louis Mo –

Rec. Octob 19
Ans Nov 2d

Providence Oct 12th 1853.

My dear Sir

I have this day sent to Boston to be forwarded by Adams Express – that line having no office here – a small box containing Cactus Specimens &c – which I trust will reach you safely. I hope you will find material ~~for~~ enough for an article for Sillimans Journal – If the contents of the box will add anything to your collection you will please accept them – Should you make any use of the drawings of C. giganteus the credit belongs to H. C. Pratt Esq. Artist of the Mexican Boundary Commission –

In haste I remain my dear Sir
very truly yours
George Thurber

P.S. Shall always be happy to hear from you –

To Dr George Engelmann
St Louis Mo.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 cm copyright reserved MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Rc Octob 25
Ans Nov 2

Providence Oct 13th 1853,

My dear Sir

When I left Texas. I shipped my collections &c by a sailing vessel. - but thinking it safer to have my Eggs in two baskets I took out duplicates of some plants & sent a small package by another conveyance. The result proves that this was a fortunate operation as I have given up the others as lost & have now only a meagre supply of materials - I send you a drawing of a flowering & fruiting summit of C. giganteus - Eng. with sketch of ribs. spines &c. with a few notes by the artist. Mr Pratt. The petals are very thick - stiff & contorted - The stamens are light yellow - stigma green - I did not count the divisions of the stigma - at least I find no note of them but they are very numerous -

I send you the half of the only flower I was able to save & that in not very good order. we had a long rainy season at the time of collecting & there was great difficulty in preserving specimens - I find in your article in Silliman. from Dr Parry's notes that he was informed that the fruit is set with spines "like a chestnut burr" / I believe that is the expression / This is a mistake of his informant as you will perceive from the specimen of fruit sent & the drawing is without spines - I am quite positive that the fruit at maturity can be handled without any

inconvenience & you are aware that the spines of cacti are not at all backward in reminding incautious meddlers of their presence — The fruit bursts upon the plant - rupturing into 3 or 4 irregular divisions exposing the crimson pulp with which it is filled — This from the heat of the sun dries up to a small bulk & drops spontaneously from the skin - in this state the pulp is collected by the Pima & Coco Maricopa Indians & rolled into balls which keep several months - I send a box of the pulp & seeds these have been kept enclosed in a tin box & I hope will germinate - I have a plenty more which I can send if you desire or to any one who you thinks would like them - The specimen of fruit I send is perhaps a little longer than the average but it is the most perfect of the 3 I brought — Color green - reddish toward the summit when mature - I do not think of anything to add to the description of the plant itself after Parrys notes - I send a specimen of the wood from a decayed plant — I dont recollect ever burning the wood but that of other cactaceae is much prized by travellers for "Kindling wood" The distribution of this species will probably prove more extended than is generally supposed — I have seen it 10 or 15 miles north of the Gila on the Rio Salinas - near Magdalena & Ures in Sonora & within 20 miles of Guaymas on the Gulf of California - It doubtless is found in Lower California - according to Venegas in his history of California 1758 - it forms one of

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Recd Oct 25 1853

the principal articals of food of the Indians of the Eastern coast, ~~which~~ at the time the Missionaries first commenced their labors in that country - he calls it the "Pitaya" a name now sometimes applied to it - & states that the time for collecting the harvest was a season of great festivity - I have not the books by me now & cannot quote his words —

I am not aware of any other economical use made of ~~the~~ any parts of the plant save Eating the pulp & preparing molasses from it —

— Specimen no 2 - is the flower & half of the immature fruit of another species of Cereus (?) abundant in some parts of Sonora - near Arispe - Magdalena & all through that region, growing in similar situations & with C. giganteus - This is the only specimen of fruit or flower I have ever seen - & I well recollect collecting this - as the limb broke as I was trying to bend it down with a rope & struck me in the back leaving me with more of the organization of a porcupine than was agreeable - The flower is greenish white, grew about a foot from the summit - plant from 4 to 12 feet high branching from the ground - branches 6-10 inches in diameter ribs about 14 - furrows shallow - but no particular note was taken of them nor the spines (which are small & black) as I brought along a specimen which was lost — I send a drawing

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

shewing the general appearance of the plant but which was not taken as a botanical sketch — fl. June —

No 3 is what I supposed to be Cereus Greggii — from the recollection of the drawing in Emorys report the petals of this are white & doubtless night-flowering as the few specimens that were observed were met with only early in the morning — plant 1–3 ft high — root not noticed — growing on table lands in various parts of Northern Mexico fl June — I send a rough sketch from my note book of a fruit collected near Monterey — which I suppose to belong to this — Color bright red — November —

No 4 — an Opuntia resembling O. arborescens about 6 ft high — more slender & less branching than that plant — flowers of a dull brick red — never crimson or purple like O arborescens — near the town of Bacuachi — not seen in any other place —

I should add that the specimens of C. giganteus were collected early in July when the flowers were very scarce & the fruit just commencing to ripen —

I also enclose the fruit of a species of Echinocactus (?) which I met with in a store in Saltillo & sold under the name of Limas agrias — sour limes — said to be used as a mordant in dyeing — what plant produced them or what particular section they came from I could not learn — You will perceive they are intensely sour

Truly Yours George Thurber

Dr Geo Engelmann
St Louis
Mo

Rec^d Nov 24th
Ans Dec 4

Providence Nov. 17d 1853.

My dear Sir

Yours of the 2d inst was duly rec'd & I should have replied earlier to your queries but that I had an impression that Mr Pratt had preserved a flower of Cereus giganteus & I waited to hear from him. I find that he had none - The lowest fruiting specimen of C. gig. that I noticed was about 12 feet - The highest I have seen was estimated by various members of the party at all the way from 40 to 50 feet - I thought it 45 - The smallest plants I noticed were 3 or 4 ft high with narrow furrows & long spines -

I cannot tell you whether the flowers endure more than one day as the flowering season was almost over (latter part of June) when we arrived among them & the only specimens I saw with flowers were all on the same day - As we had travelled all the night before & noticed flowers as soon it was light enough to distinguish objects - I infer that they were left over from the previous day -

With regard to the growth that produces the flowers - I cannot say whether it is the same spring's growth or not - I do not recollect seeing flowers or fruit upon the immediate summit as in Mr P's drawing - but

The fruit is usually 6 inches or a foot from it -

I do not know at what season the plant makes its growth - There are rains in Dec. & January & again in August -

The hardening of the fruit is produced by the alcohol. When fresh it no harder than a green cucumber & softer toward the apex than below - it is (from recollection) about 2 lines thick & fleshy & light red within - When the fruit bursts the pulp is about the consistency of a fresh fig & rather insipid to the taste - this concentrates by drying & falls spontaneously or is readily knocked out by a blow - The empty shell looks at a distance like a flower & probably gave the idea to Mexicans & Indians that the flower was red as I had been told by them before I saw the flower that such was its color - The dimensions of the fruit & fl in the drawing ought to be correct but they seem large I doubt if the flower ever exceeds 4 inches in length The specimen of fruit I sent you is longer in proportion to its diameter than the average - 2½ by 1½ & 3 by 2 are about the extremes.

The petals are very fleshy & much contorted -

I do not know that I can add anything to the description of the new cereus except its localities which I do not recollect mentioning - It was first found in a rocky cañon near Bacuachi in Sonora a small town on the road to Arispe - the former capital - afterwards it was met with about 30 miles from Sta Cruz with C. gig - & abounds at

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
Missouri Botanical Garden

Magdalena & Ures. None was seen on the Gila & I think Sta Cruz is its northern limit.

I should like if you could publish your notes in the next No. of Silliman. Mr Bartlett has been preparing a 'personal narrative' which he is about publishing & I believe he will figure the flowers &c. Therefore I should like for your notes to come out as early as possible.

With regard to the figures. I think we will let them rest for the present. I should like to have a few extra copies of your article

My reason for supposing the C. greggii to be night flowering was that the only two occasions that I saw it ~~was~~ early in the morning & then it looked just as the night blooming cereus does when it begins to wither. The petals of this are white. You have them "pale purple" in Wislizenus

I took some of the cereus seeds to Dr Gray & he said he would send to Sir W. Hooker

Allow me to thank you for the honor conferred in ~~cr~~making a C. Thurberi & remain

Very truly yours
George Thurber

Dr George Engelmann

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
Missouri Botanical Garden

Recd April 10th 1854
Ans May 19th

My dear Sir

Returning from an absence of several days I find a note from Dr. King enclosing yours of the 16th. As what I have to send is so very small I send it by mail at once — I am sorry to find upon looking over my plants such a paucity of Cactaceae - Enclosed are 3 species which with those already sent and a few common opuntiae complete the list — Though I collected a number to bring home in the living state they did not any of them survive the numerous mishaps of travel - My time for the latter part of my connexion with the Commiſsion was so entirely

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

occupied by other duties
that botany fared poorly—
I enclose a few Cuscutae—
which I believe are favorites
with you and a Loranthaceae
which I have not yet examined—
this grows upon Celtis—forming
large bunches—with branches
1–2 feet in length—fruit
bright red—

I was at Doct. Gray's
a few days ago, he informed
me that you would probably
visit him early in the coming
May & that he would notify
me of your arrival. I will,
before that time, make up
a parcel of such things as I
think will be acceptable additions
to your herbarium—
As you will probably be in
Washington I should like

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
Missouri Botanical Garden

to have you look up Mr Henry C. Pratt. the artist who accompanied the commission. he is now engaged in Portrait painting in Washington. Mentioning that you are a friend of mine will be a sufficient introduction - Mr Pratt has some clever paintings representing scenery in Sonora &c. Some of these, especially those where 'cerei' are abundant & give a feature to the scenery will interest you - As a clue to finding his whereabouts I will add that Mr P. is a brother in law of Mr Johnston who married a daughter of Col Abert U.S. Top Engineers -

I received the paper upon Cereus giganteus &c - in due season - I think that it will convince Sir Hooker that it is quite different from the

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

old man cactus. I have sent him a specimen of fruit & pulp —

Very truly yours
George Thurber

Providence March 3d 1857.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Recd May 18th
Ans May 19

Providence May 12th 1854—

My dear Sir

I expected to have had the pleasure of meeting you before this & was not aware until I saw Dr Torrey a few days ago that you were not at the meeting of the association at Washington—

My object in writing you at present is to request you to furnish me with a copy of my letter to you dated about Aug 15th the first one I think, in reply to your request for materials— Major Emory in a letter to me says "I have in my possession a letter from Dr. Engelman who is charged with making for the Government a report in one department of Botany, in which he states that he had recieved some of your Botanical drawings and other data but with the condition that they were not to be used in the report he was then preparing"—

As I kept no copy of that letter and as it may hereafter be of some importance to have one I hope you will take the trouble to furnish it if the original is still in existence—

Anything new among the Cuscutas?—

I have quite given up all hopes of ever seeing my plants published by Gov't. — Judging from present appearances they will be taken by the powers that be & suffered to die quietly —

In haste I remain

Very truly yours

George Thurber

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Rec'd July 15th
Ans Aug 22

Providence July 11th 1854 –

My Dear Sir

Your favor of May 19th was duly rec'd & would have been noticed before had not a severe domestic affliction diverted my mind from almost every other subject – In a letter from Maj Emory to me there was an implied charge of withholding materials from the Gov't – founded upon a letter from you to that officer – I was surprised at this & accordingly requested of you the copies of my letter – Now I have only to say that I judged from your first letter that you was preparing the Cactaceae as a supplement to the Plantae Wrightianae – as in that paper one is promised ~~by~~ from you – I then felt that Col Graham had done great injustice to myself & the other collectors in the same field in permitting that work to forestall their labors as many of the new genera & species were collected by Dr Bigelow & myself a year before they were obtained by Dr Wright & were held by us to be brought out whenever the Gov't account of the expedition should be published – I did not withhold them from Col. Graham or Maj Emory in order that I might give them to Mr Bartlett or any other individual – on the contrary when I found that Mr. B. was publishing a private work I refused his application for notes & information.

I very much regret that the Scientific results, at least, of the Commission could not have been given by the Gov't all together with the proper credit to the individual co-workers as it is. they are given out in detached parcels & the whole thing frittered away. Much against my own interest have I faithfully held on to my collections with the expectation that they would be called for by the proper authorities –

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
Missouri Botanical Garden

I have been at home a year & have taken pains to inform both Gen. Campbell & Maj Emory that they were so held - they have not yet been noticed by them & I feel under no obligation to ~~endeavor~~ ~~any~~ longer hold them in this way - I have told Drs Torrey & Gray to do as they see fit with those they have & I now say the same to you - I should be pleased to see the Cerei figured in the Govt. Report but if this cannot be - in some other way -

The only specimen of C. giganteus flower that I retain has fortunately the pistil which I enclose to complete your des-ription & drawing - Mule Spring is ome 20 miles west of the Rio Grande - the road towards the copper mines - I saw but one solitary specimen of 274 - with 3 or 4 heads - I send a cluster of spines which I find attached to the base of a flower - I thought that I wrote you that the flower of C. Thurberi was all that I had - the branch I

had secured. together with one of
C. giganteus having been lost by
the oversetting of a wagon after
we had left the region of them —
Several of Mr Bartletts figures have
the plant but it is upon too small
a scale — By writing to Mr H. C. Pratt
at Washington you might get one —

I have for sometime had a parcel
made up for you containing such
things as I thought would be
acceptable — from my collections as
far as the end of *Compositae* —
I have put in most of the Cali-
fornia plants & my new species
~~as far as~~ with the exception of
the new Genus *Thurberia* which
was all disposed of by Dr Gray —
You will find a new *Engelmannia*
which Dr Gray has called E. *Thurberi*.
So you see we are in the same boat —
I wrote Dr Gray to know if he had
anything to send you soon. if he has
I will send the package to him — other-
wise by express — "Rinconada Pass" is
between Saltillo & Monterey —

Very Truly Yours
George Thurber

P.S. a gentleman here tells me that he has a small plant 6 or 8 inches high of C. giganteus. brought home by one of Lieut. Whipple's party. I have not yet seen it but have begged it for you – he does not seem disposed to part with it ~~yet~~ but says that

on the road towards the copper mines – I saw but one solitary specimen of 274 – with 3 or 4 heads – I send a cluster of spines which I find attached to the base of a flower – I thought that I wrote you that the flower of C. Thurberi was all that I had – the branch I

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 cm copyright reserved MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

very when I found that Mr. B. was
publishing a private work
his application for
I very m
Feeli
Comm
by ~~the~~
proper
as it is in tucked
parcels any frittered away.
Much ag my own interest
I faithfully held on to my collections
with the expectation that they would
be called for by the proper authorities.

---

whenever he is he will advise with
me - If there are any points
that an examination of it will
Elucidate I shall be pleased to
look them up for you

GARDEN
GEORGE ENGELMANN PAPERS

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Rec^d March 27
Ans — /31

Dear Doct Engelmann.

After a long delay I have taken up grasses again. I should be glad if you would send me the Fendler & Lindheimer sets & such others of the far west as you have. Col Munro the great grass man has had my specimens & has given me copious notes & I think that I can give you authentic names.

I am not at the assay office now— dismissed last fall for refusing to be *taxed*.

My address is care of John Meakim 679 Broadway— Hope to get the parcel soon & am

Very truly yours

George Thurber

N.Y. March 24/59

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Rec April 13th
Ans May 25th

New York April 8th 1859

Dear Doct. Engelmann.

Your favor of 31st was duly rec'd. I have been too ill to answer your kind queries sooner.. I heard that Dr Bolle rec'd his parcel. but I have had no letter from him in a long time. I enclosed the letter to your St Petersburgh friend to him (Bolle) but have not learned if it reached him. I was dismissed from the Assay office by Mr Saml- F. Butterworth Supt. the same who was concerned in the Sickles affair- I never had any part in politics and as my position was a purely scientific one I would not do as political place holders do- i.e. pay for my place & consequently was dismissed at the shortest possible notice. I cannot write all the particulars in a letter - but it was done against Dr Torrey's protest - and in a way most insulting to him, on account of his remonstrance. Butterworth made charges against the Dr. at Washington, for insubordination and tried to get him removed - he would doubtless have succeeded had it not been for Henry. The Dr has been subjected to insults & indignities which are shameful. This happened early in November - All this winter I have had to scratch about for a living - my lectures at the college of Pharmacy paid a little - I got some money by writing & managed to keep along though I had but little time to my-self - I am now at work on a set of botanical illustrations for Columbia College & when they are done I have nothing in view. I have been trying to hold on here in hope that some opening would offer - I have been looking for some position in the Cooper Institute - but

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

that affair is still in embryo
& is likely to be for some time,
I should like a place where
the duties would be in accordance
with my tastes - I can do
most anything in the chemical
line also. Gray was here today and
I was having a talk with
him on my future prospects
and without knowing that you
had made any inquiries he ad-
vised me to apply to you to
see if there was not an opening
in St Louis -

I have told you the whole
story of my condition in a
few words, should you see any
chance for me, I should
be glad if you would let
me know

I am too ill to write more

Truly Yours
George Thurber

I intended to arrange the catalogue we
talked of - in the winter just past - but
I had to let all such things slide.

Regards to Mrs Engelmann & Georgie.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
Missouri Botanical Garden

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Rec^d June 2^d
Ans Aug 31

New York May 28^th 1857

Dear Doct. Engelmann

I was very glad to hear from you this morning. I thank you for the pains you have taken in hunting up grasses for me and will repay you by naming as many as possible. I would like the Venezuelan grasses & especially the Mexican. They have such a wide range that nothing ever comes amiss. In looking over the Boundary grasses I found one Andean species not before recognized on this continent and two of Torreys recent species if not more are old South American ones. I congratulate you upon the "Buffalo Grass discovery" I find that I made a note that it was generically distinct from Anthephora and sent it to Munro who said "Anthephora axilliflora Steud" & I swallowed it all - to much for yielding to authority. I hope that

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

there is no doubt of its being the true and lawful wife of Old "Sesleria".
The other thing you speak of is I infer from Torreys description what I found in Grays Herb. labelled by Carey "Incerissimus Texensis"! Gray told me that he had the impression that it was described by Nees as Chloanthes - I could not get track of it anywhere and sent it to Munro to see if he knew anything about it - he returned it with a note which I copy -
"I have this in my Herb. from Texas Drumm. marked as Chloanthes squarrosus N ab E. but I cannot recollect where I got the name. The original label from Herb. Hooker is marked. "Crypsis squarrosa Nutt. Chloanthes Nees. B. Texas" Torr. considers Crypsis squarrosa Nutt. to be Munroa squarrosa. Jameson No 157 Ven. (as near as I can make out the word, either Ven or Peru) I consider another species and have called C. Jamesonii in Herb: Trin. Coll: Dublin."
Now about that catalogue - As I told you I commenced it some time ago but becoming discouraged by the little interest Gray attached to it I put it aside - I feel myself the need of something of the kind very frequently - it is no small task to remember where everything is described and a great job to go hunting it up.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

I wish you would give me your ideas of the plan - Geographical extent to be included and what works - Whether any but the recent memoirs - Should the plan be limited by certain books or include everything west of a certain boundary - I incline to the book idea. If we can fix upon a plan I will go at it. I enclose a specimen of Cuscuta which Doct. Hays who was on the Gila Wagon Route - wishes me to send you - it is the only species he collected. He brought a lot of fresh Cereus giganteus sweetmeats, do you wish any? I hope you will not forget to send me some Aristida ramosissima Engelm. and the Eragrostis you find there. E. Frankii I think. Have you any friend at Court who can send me Vol 2 of Emory? Torrey has not rec'd any extra copies of the Botany & I dont believe he will.

Have you any of the Cactaceae? -

I was in hopes, from what Gray said that there would be a demand for a Curator at your new Garden & Museum. It is just such a place as I should like - and as I am not afraid of work I think I could fill it acceptably - I am without any definite employment or prospects. I am making a set of large and gorgeous illustrations (botanical) for Columbia College - but when they are done I have nothing to go at. In the fall I can continue at the College of Pharmacy; but one cannot live off of that. I think you said that I might exercise a judicious appropriation or annexation of duplicates from your grasses - I probably can put in as many as I take out.

Thanking you for the interest you exhibit in my welfare & hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Very cordially yours

George Thurber

Rec. July 20th
Ans. Aug 31

Cooper Institute
New-York July 16/1857

Dear Doct. Engelmann

I have two collections of grasses to examine & it would be an advantage if I could go over yours at the same time. It would perhaps be as well to send the North American ones without waiting to look out the others. I think you said that you could spare me a seedling of Cereus Thurberi - try & include it in the parcel & one of C. giganteus if you can spare it - Nothing new - In haste truly

Yours George Thurber

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
Missouri Botanical Garden

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Rec'd Sept 17
Ans. Oct 4

New York Sept 12th 1859

Dear Doct. Engelmann.

Your box of Grasses came safely- upon a hurried review of them I see that there are many things that will help me- I suppose that you wish them put in order and named as far as is practicable. I have just been looking over the manuscripts of the grasses of Chapman's new Southern Flora, which I believe he is now printing- Would it not be well for you to send him an early copy of your memoir so that he can include the Monanthochloë in it- if as I believe it grows in Florida. I have given Dr. Torrey a portion of the Aristida & will take some to Gray. Doct. T. has not rec'd the extra copies of the Boundy Botany nor can I learn anything definite nor do I think that he knows positively

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

whether any were printed.
You can get the 2 vols. of the Mex Boundy Rept. (or could) in Washington for $7 – the 2d vol. separate for $5 – some one – I have forgotten who – told me that Baird had a lot "salted down".

You ask me what are my prospects – I haven't any – My lectures, which begin next month, will judging from past years surely keep me from starving. Among other things that I am trying to bring about is the Centotype or whatever you choose to call it of which we have had some talk, I should like to do it in a way that will pay something for the time. Baird told Dr Torrey that he thought well of the plan of having it done by the Smithsonian and Dr Torrey has written to Prof. Henry on the matter, but has had no reply. as Henry is away from Washington. Gray in the last no of Silliman speaks of its necessity and you might help the matter along by a line to Henry.

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

I wish at all events you
would give me your ideas
of the plan of the work
as requested in my last.
I am sent to Boston
tonight as a delegate to a
convention of Pharmaceutists –
(and what is unusual my
expenses paid) & I shall make
a visit to Gray.
If you choose to send your
new Genus to Chapman it will
reach him at Grays.
I am obliged to make
a hurried note but remain
as ever

Truly yours
George Thurber

Dr Bolle writes me that he
has forwarded our joint letter
to Dr Koernicke (if that is the
right name) & that he is
about to leave St. Petersburgh
for some small university in
Prussia – I haven't the letter
at hand at this moment &
have forgotten the name of
the place.
Address Cooper Institute where I
have a room –

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Recd Sept 24th
Ans. Oct 3d

Cooper Institute
New York Sept. 21st 1857.

Dear Doct Engelmann.

Prof. Henry has concluded to have the catalogue made for the Smithsonian Inst. and as you have shown interest in the matter I wish to consult you upon the plan.

My idea is to make it firstly an index to all the scattered American publications as
not only new names
far as any new matter is given. I do not conceive it necessary to refer to those where a plant is merely mentioned without anything being added to its character or synonymy. Secondly to enumerate all the plants that have been published as growing west of a given line. Gray in the last No. of Sill. Journ. gives the 100th degree of longitude as a desirable eastern boundary — what do you think of this? I send a list of such works as it seems to me desirable to refer to - and wish you to make any additions that you see fit. Would you include European publications such as Scheeles papers - Seemans &c? -

of course Hooker
Benth

An early answer with a frank expression of your views in the matter will much oblige Yours truly

George Thurber

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 cm
copyright reserved
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Rec^d Nov 29th 1859
Ans March 20

Cooper Institute N.Y.
Nov. 25th.

Dear Doct. Engelmann.

Thanks for your letter of 16th – which found me just recovering from a billious remittent which has quite interrupted all work. I am only as far as the Leguminosae in the Catalogue or Synopsis. I do not yet know what I shall do about copying drawings – ~~the~~ original plan which was bargained for by the Smithsonian did not include them – & as I am one of those unfortunates that require bread & butter & cannot give work without pay, it will be necessary to make a new bargain – What I am doing now will have to be done in either case. I rec'd both the memoir on Grasses & that on Cuscutae but the Cactaceae I did not get – I cant tell you anything about Torrey's copies of the Boundary

surely. When Baird was here a few
weeks ago he said that he had no
doubt that they were printed but
were covered up by accumulated material
in the store rooms & would only be
found as the printed matter is bound up.

I think you asked me, in a former
letter for Munro's address. He has gone
to Bermuda but has given me
directions how to send to him through
a house here in N.Y. If you wish
I will forward anything to him.

Hays, who was with me all summer
went off on an expedition to survey
a ship Canal on the Isthmus of
Darien - for lack of funds the party
broke up at ~~New Granada~~ Aspinwall
& Hays remains in some way con-
nected with the Panama RR Co -
He has every facility in the way
of transportation & intends to collect
there for some months. Would Shaw
buy a set of his plants; the poor
fellow needs aid in this way -

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 cm copyright reserved MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Is there anything down there that you wish him to look out for.

Truly Yours
George Thurber

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
cm copyright reserved
MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Recd Jan 4th
Ans Jan 10 Cooper Institute.
New York Dec 29th 1859 –

Dear Doct. Engelmann.

I have just been making a catalogue of your pets – the Cactaceae & I send it to you for suggestions & corrections. You will find with each genus a leaf containing some queries & corrections to memoirs. You make some trouble by quoting Whipple – Boundary & Synopsis interchangeably – according to title page, Whipple is 2 years older than the Boundy – I have put. Whipp 1 – Boundy. 2. & Synops 3. in my references – Please fill up the blanks left in citations of foreign works. & add any references that may be necessary – You see that I presume upon your offer to assist ~~you~~ me. I have not yet decided about the matter of adding descriptions – but if I do – what I am doing now will not be labor lost. The fact is that though I can work on

as little as any one, yet I must
have something - & the arrangements
to do the present catalogue was upon
a most ridiculously small sum - & I
cannot add descriptions unless I can
get something to eat while I am
doing it - like many other things
in this world it is a question of bread.

The subgenera - which are written out
on the "genus covers" are to be pasted in the
proper places when I find that there are
to be no other species added. Both Mex
& Bound Cat. are horribly printed - but
nothing compared to Torreys print. Gov't
had better stop printing or do it better -
If that is treasonable or incendiary
please dont dissolve the union till you
send my Mss. back -
A Happy new Year to You & Yours

Very truly
Geo Thurber

Early morning - no fire - hands most frozen; will
excuse writing

+ opposite a quotation means there is no description
X opposite 2 references means transpose.

No copy of Auct. seen by Dr T. or myself;
would like a copy of both memoirs
if they can be had for a gent.
who cultivates —

Recd April 7th
Ans June 15th

New York March 22d 1861.

Dear Doct Engelmann;

As you did not direct to the Medical College your letter only came to me yesterday through the advertized list. I kept the Utah grasses until I could hear from you & am much obliged for them. This ~~year~~ winter I have been lecturing to get pennies and I suppose that I shall return again to Michigan though it goes sorely against my inclination. As the Legislature has made a small appropriation I suppose that we shall not be so much troubled about our salaries as we were last year. Still the idea of returning is not a pleasant one. While my relations there to the faculty & students are of the most satisfactory kind, the climate is so unhealthy, the situation so new that it is very much like going into exile. Then in the past the

institution has been so badly
managed that the legislature
is very chary of it money - as
there has been enough expended
to make two colleges, under ordinary
management, & but little to show
for it. I hoped to make the
grounds around the college
a botanical garden but there
is no money for such a purpose
& although there are good enough
lands around on the farm the
immediate spot on which the college
stands is very sandy & unpromising.

I would like very much if
you could see what they are
about in Illinois & what the
prospects are - Besides the Botany
proper I could if desired undertake the Principles of Horticulture -
There should be a botanical
garden & moderate green houses.

- My catalogue has grown some
this winter, but it is very slow work
in the orders beyond Compositae.
I hope to work it up this summer
so far that I can complete it
when I come East next winter

If you have duplicates in general botany that you cannot better dispose of you will please recollect that I am a candidate. I hope to collect considerable in Michigan & hope I shall have things that you will want for yourself or friends. Let me know if you have any news from Ill.

Very truly yours
George Thurber

My address until 15th is N. Y. Med. College 90 E. 13th St — N. Y. after that State Agl. College, Lansing Mich —

When I get at my duplicates I will make you up a set of Brizopyrums.